

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HYDRO RELICENSING IN NEED OF REFORM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 26, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Subcommittee on Energy and Power held an oversight hearing on the relicensing process for the Nation's hydroelectric projects. This is an important energy issue. Hydroelectric generation is the third largest source of U.S. electric generation. And it accounts for about 96 percent of U.S. renewable energy generation. While the time remaining in this session will not permit us to address any kind of meaningful reform in the relicensing process, it is clear from yesterday's hearing that this should be a top priority in the 106th Congress.

Currently relicensing applications make up the bulk of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's licensing workload. The Commission's work, in this area, has been hampered by the complex nature of the relicensing process. A number of parties are involved; the gamut of Federal laws governing the process often have very different and contradictory goals; and we also discovered that there are disputes between the authority retained by State resource agencies and the Commission.

The multiple layers involved in the relicensing process has imposed regulatory requirements and costs that threaten to undermine the Nation's hydropower system. New York City greatly benefits from the inexpensive hydropower generated by the Niagara Falls through New York utilities like, the New York Power Authority and Consolidated Edison. Given the need to relicense over 65 percent of the Nation's hydro electric capacity in the next 15 years, we must seriously consider establishing a more reasonable regulatory process.

I would urge my colleagues to make reform of the hydro relicensing process a top priority in the next Congress. We can ill-afford to lose the benefits of our Nation's most reliable and environmentally sound renewable energy source. I look forward to addressing this important energy issue next year.

SOUTH FLORIDA APPRECIATES FEMA'S HELP IN PREPARING FOR HURRICANE GEORGES

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 26, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, South Florida owes a debt of gratitude to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its exceptional performance in helping our communities prepare for Hurricane Georges.

In the hours before the hurricane struck, FEMA played a critical role in helping the local counties make preparations for this dangerous

natural phenomenon. At all times, FEMA provided local officials, South Florida Congressional offices, and residents with information about the services it provides before and after the natural disaster.

South Florida was harshly hit by Hurricane Georges, although thankfully, not as severely as many had predicted. Throughout FEMA acted in a professional manner providing the residents of South Florida an opportunity to observe their tax dollars at work.

I extend my appreciation to FEMA director, James Lee Witt, and his staff for their magnificent work in helping my community prepare for this disaster.

WHAT IS A FLAG?

HON. JAY W. JOHNSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 26, 1998

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD the following essay by Peter Hagen, a seventh-grade student from Appleton, Wisconsin. Peter's essay is entitled "What is a Flag?," and took first place at the Appleton Flag Day essay contest. His words demonstrate how our flag touches each of us in an emotional, personal way. Peter understands the respect our flag deserves, and it is an honor for me to share his moving essay with the rest of America.

What is a flag?

Some say it's just a piece of cloth. Others may say that it's just fancy toilet paper.

But what does it stand for?

It is a representative of our country, just as much a representative as the President. Our country is a large number of citizens united under the government, the values of this country, and the flag. This country was formed and received its values and freedoms through the individual sacrifices of many different men and women. Some may have given their sacrifice through the system of indentured servants. Some may have come as penniless immigrants, coming to look for a better life. Some have even given their lives in defense of this country and what it stands for.

Yes, but what does this all tell me about my flag?

Our flag is the same flag that Francis Scott Key wrote about in his famous anthem. Our flag is the same flag that Betsy Ross gave so much time and effort to make. Our flag is the same flag that has crossed oceans and deserts, mountains and plains, country after country, making sure that the oppressed are freed.

This is what the flag means to me.

TRIBUTE TO SWADESH CHATTERJEE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 26, 1998

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my congratulations to a respected citizen of my district and a national leader of the Indian-American community, Swadesh Chatterjee, on his election to the presidency of one of the oldest and best-known Indian-American organizations in the nation, the Indian American Forum for Political Education. A recent gathering of more than 500 members of IAFPE unanimously elected Mr. Chatterjee. There could be no stronger advocate for the American-Indian community nor a more adept leader than Swadesh Chatterjee to guide the IAFPE into the next century, and we are proud that he calls North Carolina home.

Since his immigration to America from Calcutta, India in 1980, Swadesh Chatterjee has been a leader in North Carolina's business community. Swadesh began as the plant manager of Brandt Instruments, a manufacturer of process control instrumentation located in the Raleigh-Durham area. He was quickly promoted to Executive Vice President, then to the position of President, where he has served for the past five years. Under his guidance, Brandt Instruments's operating profits have grown 170% in the last three years.

Swadesh Chatterjee has been an important leader of the growing Indian-American community in North Carolina. This community is noteworthy for the many accomplished professionals and business people it contains, for its strong emphasis on education, family life, and the preservation of cultural traditions, and for its contributions to the wider community. Swadesh Chatterjee is proud of this community, as they are of him, and we are all delighted that his leadership will now be extended nationwide. I am honored to represent Swadesh Chatterjee and his family and to know him as a friend, and I am pleased to commend his leadership and his achievements before my colleagues in the House today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, September 26, 1998

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, during the week of September 21, 1998, I was absent due to an illness in my family. I received an official leave of absence from the Majority Leader in this regard.

However, had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner on the following legislation:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.